poor families in rural areas, when their huts and belongings are destroyed only by fire and by no other means. The Scheme provides that initially it would be operative for a period of two years and would be reviewed thereafter. The question of covering the risks of flood and earthquake or extension of the Scheme to urban areas can be considered after gaining experience and reviewing the performance of the Scheme in rural areas after two years.

(b) The Claims Enquiry-cum-Settlement Officers (CESOs) are appointed by the State Governments for each district. Thus there are many CESOs and not one, in each State. In the event of loss due to Fire are aso covered under the Scheme, the beneficiary has to submit the Claim Intimation Form to the CESO who will make enquiries about the cause of destruction of the hut, obtain report from the Police and satisfy himself that the claimant falls within the category of persons covered under the Scheme. After he is satisfied about the cause of claim, he will forward a report to Divisional Office of the designated insurance company for settlement and payment of the claim. On receipt of this report from the CESO, the Divisional Office of the designated insurance company will make payment to the claimant by money order or by cheque.

(d) The information relating to the number of claims intimated and paid under the Scheme so far upto 24th November, 1988, since its introduction on 1.5.1988, is as under:—

Name of State	Claims Intimated	Claims Paid
Andhra Pradesh	2324	1841
Delhi	44	44
Kerala	2	1
Maharashtra	825	816
Rajasthan	5	..
Tamil Nadu	1123	1114
Uttar Pradesh	643	643
	4966	4459

उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक

*294. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्री राम नरेश यादव :

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वित्तीय वर्ष की प्रथम छमाही के दौरान प्रत्येक माह उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में गत वर्ष इसी अवधि के मुकाबले वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत वर्ष तथा चालू वर्ष में उपरोक्त अवधि के उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक का ब्योरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाए हैं तथा उनसे क्या परिणाम प्राप्त होने की संभावना है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्यविभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडवर्ड फेलेरियो : (क) से (ग) अपेक्षित जानकारी नीचे दी गई है :—

वर्ष	उपभोक्ता मूल्य (सूचकांक 1960–100)	
	1987–88	1988–89
अप्रैल	691	763
मई	703	771
जून	715	782
जुलाई	724	795
अगस्त	736	800
सितम्बर	745	806

	प्रतिशत परिवर्तन	
	1987–88	1988–89
अप्रैल	0.7	1.3
मई	1.7	1.8
जून	1.7	1.4

	प्रतिशत परिवर्तन	
	1987–88	1988–89
जुलाई	1.3	1.7
अगस्त	1.7	0.6
सितम्बर	1.2	0.8
संचयी वृद्धि	8.6	—

जैसा कि देखा जा सकता है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष के पहले छः महीनों के दौरान उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में वृद्धि पिछले वर्ष की तदनुरूप अवधि में हुई वृद्धि की तुलना में कम है।

सरकार मूल्य स्थिति पर कड़ी नजर रखे हुए है और इन्हें उचित नियंत्रण में रखने के लिए प्रयत्न किए गए है। इनमें सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ बनाना, आवश्यकतानुसार आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आयात करना, सहकारी खर्च में कठोर किफायत बरतना, अर्थव्यवस्था में नकदी बाहुल्य को समेटना तथा प्रयत्नों द्वारा अधिक उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है। आशा की जाती है कि यह प्रवृत्ति आगे आने वाले महीनों में भी जारी रहेगी।

Formation of an Automatic Teller Machine Corporation

*295. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to form an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Corporation for the public sector banks in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether some arrangement already exists between any of the nationalised bank and any foreign bank for use of ATM facility; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Two public sector banks have operationalised the arrangement at a branch each in Bombay and Bangalore.

Pollution control of gas affected areas in Bhopal

*296. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have undertaken any steps to control water and air pollution in gas affected areas of Bhopal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) (1) The Central Pollution Control Board conducted air and water quality survey in Bhopal immediately after the gas tragedy in 1984. The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has also undertaken monitoring of ambient air in January, 1985 and repeated in July, August and September, 1988. No pollution other than automobile pollution was noted.

(2) Nine water monitoring stations have been set up by the State Board in Bhopal. Some wells in the gas affected areas were found to be con-